DAY 12.1

Review: Three aspects of what we know about sentences
1
2
3

Phrase structure grammar

What is it?
What is it made of?

How does it work?

How do we use it?

Models must ...
1) work: descriptively right
Generate ONLY sentence (here the generator comes in) <- this is precision
Generate ALL sentences (here the parser comes in) <- this is recall

2) be simple
(e.g. last week:
PP -> Prep Det (Adj) Noun
NP -> Det (Adj) Noun
OK, but we can simplify: PP -> Prep NP (ridding Det (Adj) Noun)

3) generalize
   a) within a language: not just the sentences we’re looking at, but others we find later on.
   note that this simplification predicts that the stuff inside the prep phrase has the same
   properties of stuff we find before the verb as subjects. This turns out to be true.

   b) external to a language: if this is the right sort of model, we’d expect sentences to work
   this way in languages in general.

In order to evaluate 3b), we need to think through in general what phrase-structure
grammar models predict.